

Weekly Address: H.Res. 660 – Rules Impeachment Resolution Floor Statement

Yesterday, the Rules Committee reported an impeachment resolution that was hastily drafted in without Republican input and with only 24 hours' notice for review. Last night we offered, on the Republican side, 17 amendments. Unsurprisingly, none were adopted.

Despite assurances that all Members will have access to materials supporting the articles of impeachment, to date Chairman Schiff has ignored 72 bipartisan requests to view Ambassador Volker's transcript. But, pursuant to Rule XI Clause 2(e)(2) committee records are the property of the House and thus the Members of the House should have access. Last night in the Rules Committee, it was stated that perhaps Republicans were not requesting information at the right time. So I have to ask, when is the right time to ask to view our own house records?

Republicans requested an authorizing vote and now we will have one. However, this process has not been open and transparent; it diverts from the precedent set by the two most recent presidential impeachment investigations. As a result, this investigation will be conducted with no minority input.

A presidential impeachment investigation is a national trauma. All Members must take this Constitutionally vested power seriously, and Americans deserve to be represented in the process. Unfortunately, neither serious and equal consideration nor full access to records appear to be criteria under which Democrats are willing to conduct this investigation. That is a shame.